

Minutes of Life after NESWC Steering Committee

Meeting held June 24, 2004

Room 204

Town Hall

Attendance: Steering committee members Bob Johnson, Peter Ashton, Pat Clifford, Ann Chang, John Murray

Others present: Garry McCarthy

Meeting was convened by Chairman Peter Ashton at 7:30 pm.

The Minutes of the June 9th meeting were approved as submitted.

The first item discussed was the 'Status Quo' option. The discussion did wander a bit.

Leave the transfer station as is. Limited to residents only as a fall-out. This would mean limiting hours for financial reasons. Thursday and Saturday only was suggested as a possibility.

One issue was what to do with the landfill. Uncapped, it represents a liability.

We can negotiate long term contracts for use of the transfer station. We currently are licensed for 27k tons per year. With paper work, this could probably be doubled.

DEP has an interest in the plume coming from the landfill because of calls.

The transfer station today is operated with a staff of 5 FTE's.

Seneca Falls landfill in New York has shut off access through the spot market. They probably would deal with a long term contract. This is versus re-upping with the North Andover incinerator.

Status Quo morphed into privatization.

Recycling

No report at this time. Carol Holley has collected a lot of data on what comparable communities are doing. It should provide a framework for evaluating recycling finances and issues.

Market Intelligence

Landfill closure has DEP priority. Acton's landfill is listed as capped and closed as of 1988, Concord in 1994. However, if we want to use the property we may have to cap it differently.

Some discussion of the priority list. Springfield is capped like ours, what they are going through adds to the case for research.

A DEP memo on capping landfills dated 7/6/01 was passed out. Construction and demolition debris (CDD) in proper form is acceptable. Absolutely no solid waste, only materials in the memo are acceptable for the cap.

It was proposed four years ago to cap it for free with CDD materials.

State may have opposition to state money if we are profiting. (?)

Dufresne-Henry is doing the closure for Springfield. Looking at soccer fields, driving range, pavilion. The facility can be shaped with earthworks.

We need to study whether it does need to be capped. There is ambiguity as to the classification, options for reuse.

We could take CDD material for a short time (2 years maybe).

JM asked the question 'recapping for what?' Commercial use? Playing fields?

Summary: Landfill capping has to be part of all solutions. DEP is now dealing with the big landfills but will get to us. It is to our benefit to control our options.

General Discussion

PA: Need to develop more information. Does brokerage make sense?

JM: Need professional help e.g. the value of recreation use versus commercial uses for the closed landfill.

JM to provide to the committee the details of the Waste Management contract.

GM: Municipalities need to reduce risk, leads to going with contract.

GM: We are capable of accepting 27,000 tons/year. Suggests getting permitted for more, maybe 250 tons/day.

JM: What is the optimum - 250? - 275?

We agreed it would be worth investigating doing an EIR to expand capacity.

We need to talk to Richard Howe. He thinks landfill capacity available to us is drying up.

Next meeting: Tuesday, July 27, 7 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Johnson